

**WASHINGTON, Monday, July 18** — U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) is urging President Clinton to release emergency funds to help low-income Alabamians cope with the state's heat wave.

"The severe heat we're experiencing poses a grave threat to our most vulnerable citizens – our children, the elderly and the disabled. I've asked the President to release emergency federal funds that will help eligible individuals and families pay for costs associated with home cooling, including the purchase of air conditioners and payment of electricity bills," said Bachus.

The President has the authority to release emergency funds under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to states dealing with extreme heat. Congress recently passed a law that provides \$600 million for the emergency program.

"Tuscaloosa has experienced 13 consecutive days of temperatures of at least 100 degrees. Montgomery experienced 3 consecutive days of 100 degree heat, and Birmingham has consistently been in the upper 90s for days. This scorching heat is life-threatening to so many people in Alabama. Release of these emergency funds will protect thousands of our children, the elderly and disabled in Alabama this summer," said Bachus.